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Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters

Fifth session
Maastricht, the Netherlands, 30 June and 1 July 2014
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda

Annotated provisional agenda for the fifth session

To be held in Maastricht, the Netherlands, on 30 June and 1 July 2014, starting at 10 a.m.*

I. Agenda items and timing

Date and time	*Item*	
Monday, 30 June		
10–10:15 a.m.	1.	Opening of the session
10:15–10:20 a.m.	2.	Adoption of the agenda
10:20–10:40 a.m.	3.	Status of ratification of the Convention and the amendment to the Convention

* The fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention will be held back to back with the second session of the Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol (3–4 July 2014). A joint High-level Segment under the auspices of the two Meetings of the Parties will take place on 2 July 2014. A provisional agenda for the High-level Segment will be provided as a separate document. More information will be made available in due course on the web page dedicated to the two sessions (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/aarhusmop5&prtrmopp2/main.html).

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Date and time	*Item*	
	4.	Substantive issues
10:40–11:10 a.m.	(a)	Access to information, including electronic information tools
11:10–11:30 a.m.		**Coffee break** (*allocation of time for coffee breaks to be decided at a later stage*)
11:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.	(b)	Public participation in decision-making
12:15–1 p.m.	(c)	Access to justice
1–3 p.m.		**Lunch**
3–3:30 p.m.	(d)	Genetically modified organisms
	5.	Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention
3:30–4:30 p.m.	(a)	Reports on the status of implementation of the Convention
4:30–5:30 p.m.	(b)	Compliance mechanism
5.30–6 p.m.	(c)	Capacity-building
Tuesday, 1 July		
	6.	Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages
10–10:30 a.m.	(a)	Accession to the Convention by States from outside the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region
10:30–11:10 a.m.	(b)	Promotion of the Convention's principles in international forums
11:10–11:30 a.m.		**Coffee break**
11:30 a.m.–12 p.m.	(c)	Global and regional developments on issues related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
12–12:10 p.m.	(d)	Update on United Nations Environment Programme initiatives on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters
12:10–12:30 p.m.	(e)	Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements and organizations
	7.	Programme of work and operation of the Convention
12:30–1 p.m.	(a)	Implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014

Date and time	*Item*	
1–3 p.m.		**Lunch**
3–3:40 p.m.		(b) Strategic Plan for 2015–2020
3:40–4:40 p.m.		(c) Work programme for 2015–2017
4:40–5:20 p.m.		(d) Financial arrangements
5:20–5:30 p.m.	8.	Report on credentials with regard to the Convention's Parties
5:30–5:40 p.m.	9.	Election of officers and other members of the Bureau
5:40–5:50 p.m.	10.	Date and venue of the sixth ordinary session
5:50–6 p.m.	11.	Any other business

II. Annotations to the draft provisional agenda

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
Monday, 30 June					
10–10.15 a.m.	1. Opening of the session	Plenary	Information	Welcome address by a high-level official of the Netherlands. The Chair of the Meeting of the Parties will formally open the meeting.	
10.15–10.20 a.m.	2. Adoption of the agenda	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to adopt the agenda of the session as set out in the present document.	*Text for action:* Provisional agenda for the fifth session of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.PP/2014/1)
10.20–10.40 a.m.	3. Status of ratification of the Convention and the amendment to the Convention	Plenary	Information	The secretariat will inform the Meeting of the Parties about the status of ratification, acceptance, approval and accession with respect to the Convention and the amendment to the Convention. It will also provide information about any declarations made by the Parties upon the deposit of their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. Delegates from States or regional economic integration organizations not yet party to the Convention or the amendment to the Convention will be invited to report on their plans to ratify, accept, approve or accede to those instruments.	*Background documents:* Information on ratifications (http://www.unece.org/env/pp/ratification.html)
	4. Substantive issues:				
10.40–11.10 a.m.	(a) Access to information, including electronic information tools [a]	Plenary	Decision	The Chair of the Task Force on Access to Information will report on key highlights of the activities of the Task Force since the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of these activities and address challenges.	*Text for action:* Draft decision V/1 on access to information (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.1)

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
				The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally[b] adopt a draft decision on access to information.	*Background documents*: Reports of the first and second meetings of the Task Force on Access to Information (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/5; ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/4) Relevant sections of the synthesis report on the status of implementation (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) and national implementation reports (NIRs) (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
11.10–11.30 a.m.	**Coffee break**				
11.30–12.15 p.m.	(b) Public participation in decision-making	Plenary	Decision	The Chair of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-making will report on key highlights of the activities of the Task Force since the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges and provide direction for further work in this area. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on public participation in decision-making.	*Text for action*: Draft decision V/2 on public participation in decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.2) *Background documents:* Report of the second, third and fourth meetings of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-

Indicative Time	*item*		*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
						making (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2012/4; ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/4; ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/6) Maastricht recommendations on promoting effective public participation in decision-making (ECE/MP.PP/2014/8) Relevant sections of the synthesis report on the status of implementation (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) and NIRs (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
12.15–1 p.m.	(c)	Access to justice	Plenary	Decision	A representative from the judiciary will be invited to deliver a keynote address. The Chair of the Task Force on Access to Justice will report on key highlights of the activities of the Task Force since the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, to address challenges and to provide direction for further work in this area. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting effective access to justice.	*Text for action*: Draft decision V/3 on promoting effective access to justice (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.3) *Background documents*: Reports of the fifth, sixth and seventh meetings of the Task Force on Access to Justice (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2012/5; ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/5; ECE/MP.PP/2014/5) Relevant sections of the synthesis report on the status

Indicative Time	*Item*		*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
						of implementation (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) and NIRs (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
1–3 p.m.	**Lunch**					
3–3.30 p.m.	(d)	Genetically modified organisms	Plenary	Information, decision	A representative from Government will be invited to deliver a keynote address. Parties, Signatories and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to the implementation of the Convention with respect to genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and/or to the application of the GMO amendment to the Convention. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken , to address challenges and to consider possible further work in this area.	*Text for action:* Decision on possible further work in this area through adoption of the relevant section of the work programme for 2015–2017 (to be included in the report of the session) *Background documents:* Relevant sections of the synthesis report on the status of implementation (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) and NIRs (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html) Report on the implementation o the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3) Report of the round table on GMOs under the Aarhus Convention (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2014/6)

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
	5. Procedures and mechanisms facilitating the implementation of the Convention:				
3.30–4.30 p.m.	(a) Reports on the status of implementation of the Convention	Plenary	Information, decision	The Chair will present a synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the implementation of the Convention on the basis of NIRs submitted by the Parties and the synthesis report prepared by the secretariat. It is also expected to take note of any reports submitted by Signatories and other States not Party to the Convention, as well as reports prepared by international, regional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Meeting will be invited to discuss the main trends, challenges and solutions emerging from the reports. It will also be invited to discuss the experience gained with the procedure for compiling reports, including the experience with NGOs and other stakeholders, and to decide upon possible ways of improving the process in the future. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on reporting.	*Texts for action*: Draft decision V/8 on reporting requirements (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.8) *Background documents*: Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) NIRs (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html)
4.30–5.30 p.m.	(b) Compliance mechanism	Plenary	Decision, election	The Chair of the Compliance Committee will report on the Committee's activities since the fourth session of the Meeting of the Parties and present any findings and recommendations of the Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to take note of the Committee's report, including any general recommendations contained therein, as well as any findings and recommendations of the	*Texts for action*: Draft decision V/9 on general issues of compliance (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.9) Supplementary draft decisions concerning specific cases of non-compliance Decision on election of Compliance Committee

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
				Committee with respect to compliance by specific Parties, and to consider, revise as necessary, and provisionally adopt draft decisions on compliance issues. The Meeting of the Parties is also expected to elect the Compliance Committee members.	members (to be included in the report of the session) *Background documents*: Report by the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/2014/9) Supplementary reports concerning specific cases involving compliance matters Synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) NIRs (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html) Membership of the Compliance Committee (ECE/MP.PP/WG.1/2013/11) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
5.30–6 p.m.	(c) Capacity-building	Plenary	Decision	The secretariat will report on some of the main capacity-building activities undertaken during the intersessional period to promote more effective implementation of the Convention, as well as on the measures taken to coordinate the various activities through the capacity-building coordination framework. International and regional organizations engaged in capacity-building activities will be invited to elaborate on those activities. Representatives of Governments and organizations will be invited to share their views on outstanding needs for capacity-building. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the activities undertaken and provide feedback on the activities and guidance on the direction of future activities.	*Text for action*: Decision on possible further work in this area through adoption of the relevant section of the work programme for 2015–2017 (to be included in the report of the session) *Background documents*: Report on capacity-building (ECE/MP.PP/2014/7) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
Tuesday, 1 July					
	6. Promotion of the Convention and relevant developments and interlinkages:				
10.–10.30 a.m.	(a) Accession to the Convention by non-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe States	Plenary	Information	The secretariat will report on requests for accession by non-United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) States submitted to the Meeting of the Parties, as relevant. Parties, Signatories and stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to the promotion of accession to the Convention by States from outside the ECE region.	*Background documents*: Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
10.30–11.10 a.m.	(b) Promotion of the Convention's principles in international forums	Plenary	Decision	One or more representatives of stakeholders will be invited to deliver a keynote address. The Chair of the thematic session on Public Participation in International Forums will report on key highlights of the thematic session.	*Text for action*: Draft decision V/4 on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international

Indicative Time	*Item*		*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
					Parties, Signatories and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to this work area. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review the work undertaken, address challenges and provide direction for further work in this area. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on promoting the application of the principles of the Convention in international forums.	forums (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.4) *Background documents*: Relevant sections of the synthesis report on the status of implementation of the Convention (ECE/MP.PP/2014/6) and NIRs (available from http://www.unece.org/env/pp/reports_implementation_2014.html) Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
11.10–11.30 a.m.	**Coffee break**					
11.30 a.m.–12 p.m.	(c)	Global and regional developments on issues related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development	Plenary	Information	Parties, Signatories, other States and other stakeholders will be invited to provide information on activities relating to this area of work. The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review information provided on ongoing or planned activities on issues related to Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.	*Background document*: Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
12–12.10 p.m.	(d)	Update on United Nations Environment Programme initiatives on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters	Plenary	Information	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to review information provided by the United Nations Environment Programme and may wish to consider ways of promoting synergies with the relevant activities under the Aarhus Convention.	

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
12.10–12.30 p.m.	(e) Synergies between the Convention and other relevant multilateral environmental agreements	Plenary	Information	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review information provided by the secretariat and representatives of other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) on ongoing or planned activities and to explore ways of further promoting synergies between the Convention and other MEAs.	*Background document*: Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3)
	7. Programme of work and operation of the Convention:				
12.30–1 p.m.	(a) Implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014	Plenary	Information	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to review, on the basis of a report prepared by the secretariat, the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014, and the use of the funds contributed for the period 2012–2013.	*Background documents*: Report on the implementation of the work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/3) Report on contributions and expenditures in relation to the implementation of the Convention's work programme for 2012–2014 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/4)
1–3 p.m.	**Lunch**				
3–3.40 p.m.	(b) Strategic Plan for 2015–2020	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020.	*Text for action*: Draft decision V/5 on the Strategic Plan for 2015–2020 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.5)
3.40–4.40 p.m.	(c) Work programme for 2015–2017	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on the work programme for 2015–2017. It is expected that Parties, Signatories and other interested States will have informed the secretariat in advance of the meeting of their intention to contribute to the financial resources of the Convention.	*Text for action*: Draft decision V/6 on the work programme for 2015–2017 (ECE/MP.PP/2014/L.6)

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
				The secretariat will make the information received available to the Meeting of the Parties and delegations will be invited to provide any supplementary information.	
4.40–5.20 p.m.	(d) Financial arrangements	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to consider and provisionally adopt a draft decision on financial arrangements.	*Text for action*: Draft decision V/7 on financial arrangements under the Convention (ECE/MP.PP.2014/L.7)
5.20–5.30 p.m.	8. Report on credentials with regard to the Convention's Parties	Plenary	Approval	The Meeting of the Parties will be invited to approve the report on credentials, presented by the officers in accordance with rule 17 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.2, annex).	*Text for action*: Decision on the approval of the credentials (to be included in the report of the session)
5.30–5.40 p.m.	9. Election of officers and other members of the Bureau	Plenary	Election	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to elect a chair and two vice-chairs from among the representatives of the Parties present at the meeting in accordance with rule 18 of the rules of procedure (ECE/MP.PP/2/Add.2, annex). It is also expected to elect the remaining members of the Bureau from among the representatives of the Parties in accordance with rule 22, paragraph 1 (b), of the rules of procedure. NGOs established for the purpose of and actively engaged in promoting environmental protection and sustainable development are expected to appoint a representative to attend the meetings of the Bureau, as observers, in accordance with rule 22, paragraphs 2 and 4, of the rules of procedure.	*Text for action*: Decision on election (to be included in the report of the session)
5.40–5.50 p.m.	10. Date and venue of the sixth ordinary session	Plenary	Decision	The Meeting of the Parties is expected to make a preliminary decision with respect to the date and venue for its sixth ordinary session. Parties and prospective Parties are invited to consider hosting	*Text for action*: Decision on the date and venue of the sixth session of the Meeting of the Parties (to

Indicative Time	*Item*	*Format*	*Action*	*Explanatory notes*	*Documents*
				the meeting and to inform the secretariat in advance of any proposals they may intend to make in this regard.	be included in the report of the session)
5.50–6 p.m.	11. Any other business	Plenary	Information	Delegates wishing to propose points under this item are requested to inform the secretariat as soon as possible.	

[a] Parties and stakeholders with extensive expertise on the subject, which can offer positive experience in furthering implementation of the Convention and address common challenges in relation to that subject, will be invited to deliver the statements. The statements will constitute a substantive "opening" of the discussion in plenary.

[b] All provisionally adopted decisions will be formally adopted under agenda item 5 of the joint High-level Segment (2 July 2014). The formal closure of the session will take place under agenda item 6 of the joint High-level Segment.